

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-01 HA-05 /116 W

-----024042 050704Z /11

R 050544Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8277

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USINT HAVANA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2018

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, SHUM, ET

SUBJECT: RED TERROR CAMPAIGN OVER FOR PRESENT

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 1012 (NOTAL); (B) ADDIS ABABA 1556

(NOTAL); (C) ADDIS ABABA 1842 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (OR DIRG) HAS ISSUED CIRCULAR NOTE TO ALL URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS (KEBELES) DESIGNED TO CURTAIL "RED TERROR" ALMOST COMPLETELY AND ELIMINATE OTHER ABUSES BY KEBELES. DIRG APPEARS TO HAVE DECIDED TO CIRCUMSCRIBE SEVERELY ROLE OF ALL ETHIOPIA SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (AESM OR ME'ISON), ONE OF FIVE MARXIST-LENINIST GROUPS CREATED TO ESTABLISH WORKERS' PARTY, AND WHICH HAS PARTICIPATED AC-

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TIVELY IN RED TERROR CAMPAIGN. DIRG HAS ALSO ALLOWED VIRTUAL ELIMINATION OF ANOTHER OF FIVE M-L GROUPS, THUS GREATLY STRENGTHENING TWO OF REMAINING M-L GROUPS. DIRG'S DECISION TO CUB RED TERROR CAMPAIGN IS PROBABLY RESULT OF NUMBER OF INTERNAL RATHER THAN EXTERNAL PRESURES INCLUDING SUCCESSFUL DECIMATION OF ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (EPRP), DESIRE TO RECONCEN-

TRATE ALL AUTHORITY WITHIN DIRG, RECOGNITION OF INCREASED CIVILIAN ALIENATION FROM DIRG ITSELF AND POSSIBLE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN BRINGING GREATER ORDER AND METHODOLOGY TO INTERNAL SECURITY APPARATUSES. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL RELIABLE SOURCE WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO PMAC CIVILIAN ADVISERS STATED THAT CIRCULAR NOTE WAS ISSUED BY DIRG WEEK OF APRIL 24-30 TO ALL LOWER AND HIGHER KEBELES IN ADDIS ABABA REQUIRING THAT ANY SHOT FIRED WITHIN KEBELE JURISDICTION MUST BE REPORTED TO DIRG, EITHER IN WRITING OR ORALLY, AND THAT ALL AMMUNITION AND WEAPONS ISSUED TO KEBELES MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR. ANY REPORTS OF ABUSES BY KEBELE MEMBERS ARE TO BE INVESTIGATED BY DIRG SECURITY. AS EVIDENCE OF THIS, ANOTHER RELIABLE SOURCE WAS SITTING WITH HIS KEBELE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN EVENING MAY 1 AND THEY HEARD SHOT AT SOME DISTANCE. WITHIN 15 MINUTES, DIRG REPRESENTATIVE HAD CALLED KEBELE OFFICERS AND INQUIRED ABOUT SHOT. HE WAS INFORMED IT WAS IN ANOTHER KEBELE AND THEREFORE NO OTHER ACTION WAS REQUIRED OF SOURCE'S KEBELE. (DIRG ALLEGEDLY HAD ORDERED REPORT ON KEBELES BE PREPARED MORE THAN TWO MONTHS AGO (SEE REFTEL A) DETAILING ABUSES, BUT IT WAS NOT ACTED UPON UNTIL RECENTLY BECAUSE OF MENGISTU'S ABSENCES FROM ETHIOPIA.)

2. MOST OBSERVERS IN ADDIS HAVE NOTED GRADUAL DIMINISHED

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NUTION OF RED TERROR OVER PAST 2-3 WEEKS AS EVIDENCED BY LACK OF NOCTURNAL SHOOTING, ABSENCE OF CORPSES IN STREET, RELEASE FROM KEBELE DETENTION OF MANY YOUTHS AND REDUCTION OF NEW ARRESTS. IT APPEARS THAT IDEOLOGICAL "EDUCATION" OF CITIZENRY THROUGH KEBELES IS CONTINUING, BUT TENSION OF AVERAGE ADDIS RESIDENT IS MUCH LOWER THAN PAST FOUR MONTHS.

3. HOWEVER, POLITICAL COMPETITION IS CONTINUING AMONG CIVILIAN MARXIST-LENINIST GROUPS WITHIN UNION OF ETHIOPIAN MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANIZATIONS (UEMLO). (UEMLO WAS CRATED AS UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION IN MAY/JUNE 1977 TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR WORKERS' PARTY.) MENGISTU'S MAY DAY SPEECH CALLED NEGATIVE ATTENTION TO ME'I SONE ONCE AGAIN AS DESERTERS OF REVOLUTION, WHICH WAS EXPANDED UPON IN MAY 3 ETHIOPIAN HERALD EDITORIAL. ME'I SONE WAS ACCUSED IN EDITORIAL OF SAME SINS AS EPRP, HAVING ATTEMPTED TO CONFUSE BROAD MASSES AS ONLY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 2018

GENUINE MARXISTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF WORKERS. IT CLEAR FROM RECENT PRESS COVERAGE AND FROM RELIABLY REPORTED ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST ME'I SONE MEMBERS IN KEBELES (DISARMING THEM) AND IN FACTORIES (REMOVING AND ARRESTING THEM), THAT DIRG HAS DECIDED TO ALL BUT DISBAND ME'I SONE, EITHER BY FORCEFUL SUASION OR VIOLENTLY, WHICHEVER IS NECESSARY. DRAWING PUBLIC PARALLEL BETWEEN ME'I SONE AND EPRP IS PROBABLY DEATH KNEEL OF ME'I SONE. FATE OF REMAINING BUREAUCRATS FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH ME'I SONE, LIKE THE MAYOR, IS UNCERTAIN.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS EXTREMELY CURIOUS THAT FORMER ME'I SONE LEADER NEGEDE GOBEZIE SECRETLY RETURNED TO ETHIOPIA APRIL 21 FROM HIS SELF-EXILE IN FRANCE. NEGEDE HAD GIVEN STRONGLY ANTI-DIRG STATEMENTS
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TO FRENCH PRESS (LE MONDE) LAST SEPTEMBER AND APPEARED IRRECONCILABLY OPPOSED TO DIRG AT TIME. RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE STATED THAT NEGEDE ENTERED ETHIOPIA UNDER

FALSE IDENTITY THROUGH AIRPORT AND WAS MET BY DIPLOMATIC VEHICLE, EITHER CUBAN OR YEMENI (PDRY). HE IS REPORTEDLY AT CUBAN EMBASSY AND THERE ARE RUMORS OF POSSIBLE RECONCILIATION WITH MENGISTU.

5. DIRG HAS ALSO PERMITTED, EITHER DELIBERATELY OR THROUGH INACTION, NEARLY TOTAL ELIMINATION OF ECHAT, (OPPRESSED REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE), A CHIEFLY GALLA GROUPING AND ONE OF FIVE M-L GROUPS. SEDED, NOMINALLY ASSOCIATED WITH MENGISTU AND DIRG MEMBER 2ND LT. LEGESSE ASFAW, AND WEZ LEAGUE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ENHANCE THEIR POSITION WITH UEMLO, BUT ALLEGEDLY ARE DISPLEASED WITH DIRG DECISION TO CURTAIL RED TERROR. IN CURTAILING SEDED'S AND WEZ'S ACTIONS FOR MOMENT, DIRG MAY LATER ATTEMPT TO SUPPRESS YET ANOTHER MARXIST-LENINIST GROUP WHICH HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSES TO ELIMINATE OPPOSITION ON LEFT. DIRG HAS BEEN ALREADY SUCCESSFUL IN USING THIS TACTIC TO CRUSH EPRP THROUGH ME'I SONE AND ME'I SONE THROUGH SEDED.

6. DIRG IMPOSED CONSTRAINTS WILL BE RELIEF FOR CIVILIAN "MIDDLE ROADERS" AND BUREAUCRATS WHO HAVE BEEN PRESSURED AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER TO JOIN ONE OF FIVE M-L GROUPS. AVERAGE RESIDENT MAY ALSO FEEL SOME RENEWED SUPPORT FOR DIRG, WHICH MAY BE PERCEIVED BY SOME AS HAVING ACTED TO RESTRAIN INDEPENDENT ACTIONS OF KEBELES AND HAVING STOPPED RED TERROR FOR MOST PART. IN FACT, WAR SITUATION IN OGADEN MAY HAVE DIVERTED DIRG FOCUS TEMPORARILY AND GIVEN GREATER REIN TO CIVILIAN COMPETITORS THAN MENGISTU DESIRED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: RED TERROR CAMPAIGN OVER FOR PRESENT
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, SHUM, ET, ME I SONE, UEMLO, EPRP, (NEGEDE GOBEZIE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/60e4cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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